

Atty Dkt. No.: 10004031-2
USSN: 10/691,037**AMENDMENTS****RECEIVED**
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1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a septum comprising applying radial tension to a second layer and bonding the second layer to a first layer of resilient material, wherein said second layer is held in radial tension between 5 and 1000 newton/m and wherein the septum maintains a seal following penetration by a member in an axial direction and withdrawal.

15. (Original) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the second layer is a resilient material.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a septum comprising applying radial tension to a second layer and a third layer and bonding the second and third layers to opposite surfaces of a first layer of resilient material such that the bonded second and third layers are under tension, wherein said second and third layer are held in radial tension between 5 and 1000 newton/m and wherein the septum maintains a seal following penetration by a member in an axial direction and withdrawal.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 16 wherein the tension is applied to the second and third layers prior to and during bonding to the first layer.

18. (Original) A method according to Claim 17 wherein the tension is applied by pulling on the second and third layers.

19. (Original) A method according to Claim 16 wherein the tension is applied to the second and third layers by chemical or thermal shrinkage after bonding to the first layer.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14 ~~[[16]]~~ wherein the first